

FORM No. 62.

FOREST DEPARTMENT, BOMBAY, SOUTHERN CIRCLE.

Financial results of the year 1889-90.

Divisions.	TIMBER AND OTHER PRODUCE REMOVED FROM THE FORESTS BY GOVERNMENT AGENCY.		OTHER REVENUE.		FORMATION, PROTECTION AND IM- PROVEMENT OF FORESTS.	TOTAL.		REMARKS.
	Receipts.	Charges.	Receipts.	Charges.	Charges.	Receipts.	Charges.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Direction	24,806	24,806	
Northern Division of Kánara	3,61,101	1,44,260	89,519	6,166	60,620	4,50,620	2,11,046	
Central Division of Kánara	1,27,030	62,299	50,670	7,150	12,311	1,77,700	81,760	
Southern Division of Kánara	76,265	28,534	45,149	13,954	8,192	1,21,414	50,680	
Belgaum... ..	2,77,997	1,34,091	53,694	10,975	11,734	3,31,691	1,56,800	
Dhárwár... ..	51,329	28,592	27,343	7,733	12,903	78,672	49,228	
Bijápur	1	17	22,958	3,985	12,607	22,959	16,609	
Kolába	7,189	15,600	1,23,287	10,968	21,206	1,30,476	47,774	
Ratnágiri	10,867	6,735	1,277	28	4,878	12,144	11,641	
Total	9,11,779	4,20,128	4,13,897	85,765	1,44,451	13,25,676	6,50,344	

J. L. L. MacGREGOR,
Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle.

Conservator's Office, Southern Circle : }
Dated Belgaum, 18th October 1890. }

No. 4477 of 1890.

Belgaum, 19th November 1890.

Submitted to Government in the Revenue Department.

2. The forest area is practically the same as last year, 125 acres have been added to reserved forest in Ratnágiri, and 93 deducted from protected forest in Kánara.

3. It is a subject for regret that settlement has proceeded so slowly. In Kolába and Ratnágiri only it has been completed. Elsewhere it is backward; and at the present rate of progress, Mr. MacGregor computes it will take eight years to complete the forest settlement of Kánara. (The district contains roughly two-thirds of the forest area of the division). The proposals which were submitted with a view to hasten the settlement, which are partly endorsed by the Conservator in his 16th paragraph, have been lately negatived by Government. It is hoped that Mr. Gray, the Settlement Officer for Belgaum and Dhárwár, will have a better record of work to show at the end of the current year than he had last. The work he has to do is simple enough, and only requires personal activity, as full enquiries were made by his predecessor, and much of the work connected with the conversion of protected into reserved forest must be purely formal.

4. The information regarding the cost of settlement per square mile up to date, required by the Government of India, has not been furnished; but the Conservator promises to supply it later on. The cost of settlement during the year was 20·24 per square mile in Kánara and 96·50 in Belgaum. The high rate in the latter district is attributed to the fact that "the office being new (it) took some time to get into working order." The undersigned has already pointed out to Mr. Gray, the Forest Settlement Officer, the necessity for increased energy and activity on his part.

5. The progress made by Messrs. Oliver and Bell in preparing working plans is not satisfactory. The question of laying a railway or tram line in the forests in the Supa Division to connect them with the Southern Marátha Railway has been fully discussed in the report of the Committee, which met at Dhárwár last August.

6. The cost of fire-protection was nearly three times as high as the rate complained of last year. The great extent of the forests in the Southern Circle and the manner in which agricultural settlements are planted in the heart of the forests, account, perhaps, for the enhanced difficulties and cost of protection from fire, as compared with the Northern Circle, where the forests are generally in separate compact blocks and topographically distinct from the cultivated area.

7. Naturally with restricted grazing privileges, the fees from grazing have increased.

8. The financial results show a decided improvement, revenue having risen from Rs. 12,73,554 to Rs. 13,25,676, the expenditure at the same time falling from Rs. 6,75,601 to Rs. 6,50,343, showing a net increase of Rs. 77,380. The increase is chiefly due to larger quantities of timber being put upon the market. As Mr. MacGregor says "the quantity exploited is well within the estimated sustained yield of the tracks treated," it may be hoped that the improvement is more than temporary. The Southern Marátha Railway has taken a very much larger quantity of fuel, and it is probable that if the Company would be sufficiently enterprising to lay tram lines to portions of the forest not yet exploited, it might secure a large additional supply at a less cost than the present.

9. The Conservator himself was active in the supervision of his charge. His remarks on the extension of garden cultivation (para. 130) cannot be dealt with here, the Commissioner not having any local knowledge to assist him, but it is a subject to which he hopes to be able to pay attention during this year's tour. Although the destruction of valuable forest may make it so costly to Government as to be viewed, as Mr. MacGregor views it, with apprehension, he appears to forget that the extension of the most productive form of cultivation is in itself a good thing. The real question seems to be whether in the interests of the cultivators themselves it will not be necessary to limit it, should it be shown that the demands on the forests are too great for them to meet—a result which must of course end in the abandonment of the gardens themselves.

ALFRED KEYSER,
Acting Commissioner, S. D.

NORTHERN CIRCLE.

No. 3886 OF 1890-91.

FROM "

A. T. SHUTTLEWORTH, ESQUIRE,
Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle ;

TO

JOHN NUGENT, ESQUIRE,
Chief Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department,
Bombay.

Poona, 31st October 1890.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit herewith the Forest Administration Report of the Northern Circle for the year 1889-90, with its subsidiary statements.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

A. T. SHUTTLEWORTH,
Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle.

THROUGH THE COMMISSIONERS, NORTHERN AND CENTRAL DIVISIONS.